

TDOT's Environmental Division - Facing the Challenges of Road Building

September 6, 12-1:00 p.m.

Region II Conference Room

Everyone knows that building a highway has the potential to greatly impact the local environment. Yet roads and highways are essential to our lifestyles and economy and we would be “lost” without them!

Today, Tennessee’s road system stretches 87,259 miles, enough to circle the world more than three times. In addition to the road system, the nearly 5,000 employees of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) are also responsible for other forms of transportation - aviation, public transit, waterways and railroads. It’s a big job to keep Tennessee moving!

TDOT is well aware of the challenges that road building brings to the well-being of the natural world and deals with those issues primarily through the work of the Environmental Division. Doug Delaney, the recently appointed Assistant Chief of Environment and Planning for TDOT and Director of the Environmental Division for the past four years, will be the next presenter at the Lunch and Learn Gang program.

Doug’s presentation, entitled “Environmental Stewardship and Streamlining,” will outline recent changes at TDOT to better plan, design, construct, maintain and operate the state’s transportation system. These changes, affecting all levels of the Department, were undertaken to better establish and achieve transportation, community, and environmental goals.

The presentation will also include a discussion of several large-scale initiatives underway in the Department, including the Statewide Storm Water Management Plan, the Tennessee Environmental Procedures Manual (including the Tennessee Environmental Evaluation Report), Context Sensitive Solutions, as well as the development of a Statewide Environmental Management System and the Tennessee Environmental Streamlining Agreement.

In addition to the natural environment, the Environmental Division has the immense task of addressing the impacts of road building on the cultural, social and economic environments as well. As part of this work, the Division staff studies the potential effects of projects on land use, farmland, energy, hazardous waste, visual concerns, construction impacts and much more.

Please join us for an informative talk about this very important work that is carried out by TDOT’s Environmental Division.

Hosted by the I&E Department and held on the first Thursday of each month, except July, Lunch and Learn Gang presentations are about natural resource related topics and last about 30-45 minutes, allowing time for discussion during the allotted lunch hour. If you would like to make a presentation, if you have topics of personal interest you would like us to address, or if you know someone who offers an interesting program, contact **Patricia Miller** (615) 781-5276 or by e-mail: **Patricia.Miller@state.tn.us**.